United Nations A/70/138

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Item 99 (c) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2014 to June 2015.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre focused its assistance to Member States in the region on issues related to small arms and light weapons, other conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. The Centre implemented more than 50 technical, legal and policy assistance activities for the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Centre provided training, upon request, for more than 500 security sector personnel of Member States in the region on small arms and light weapons control, including on marking, record-keeping, tracing and stockpile management, as well as conventional arms control. The Regional Centre held a training course exclusively for female officials to promote the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes. The Centre trained more than 100 national authorities from several Member States in the region using its Arms Trade Treaty implementation course. The Centre provided capacity-

* A/70/50.

15-11928 (E) 280715

Please recycle

building assistance to several States in the Caribbean region in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre also assisted States in the Caribbean region in their development of voluntary national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operation and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions, and calls upon those that are in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to sustain its activities in response to the increasing requests for assistance and cooperation that it continues to receive from Member States in the region.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/72, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its Member States, and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States of the region.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventieth session. The present report, submitted pursuant to that request, highlights the main activities carried out by the Regional Centre from July 2014 to June 2015. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014 is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. The Centre is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. The Regional Centre supported Latin American and Caribbean States in their implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and adherence to international standards and norms in those fields through capacity-building assistance. The Centre undertook more than 50 policy, legal and technical assistance activities to support the efforts by States in the region to ensure the security of their citizens by preventing and combating illicit trafficking in small arms and ammunition and by implementing measures on conventional arms control.

5. The Regional Centre developed a training course for national authorities responsible for import and export regimes and the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. The Centre continued its specialized training programme for national security sector personnel on combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The Centre also provided, upon request, legislative and policy assistance to Member States in the region in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

A. Public security programme

1. Regional implementation of General Assembly resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

6. The Regional Centre implemented its project to support implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. That project, supported financially by the Government of Australia and carried out in Peru and Mexico, included the development of related gender-sensitive tools for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and small arms control instruments.

7. The Regional Centre held a national course in Lima in August 2014, which trained 26 judicial officers, including 20 women, on addressing the pattern of impunity in cases of illicit small arms trafficking and related crimes, including femicides. The training strengthened the capacity of judges, prosecutors and the judicial police to combat illicit small arms trafficking. It contained a practical simulation exercise involving a case of illicit small arms trafficking and domestic violence against women. In addition, the Centre produced two concept papers containing recommendations on how best to integrate and apply a gender and child focus in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as an overview of existing data on armed violence, gender-based violence and small arms in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. In partnership with Mexico, the Regional Centre held an international round table in Mexico City, in November 2014, which brought together 25 experts on gender and on conventional arms control from Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The round table reviewed good practices in incorporating gender and child-focused approaches into disarmament and arms control programmes, including arms export assessments as provided for in the Arms Trade Treaty. A risk assessment tool, developed by the Centre to help States to evaluate the risk of conventional arms and ammunition being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or of violence against women and children (article 7.4 of the Treaty), served as a basis for discussions.

9. In the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Regional Centre launched the second edition of its online publication "Forces of change II". This publication showcases the stories of 100 women — policymakers, diplomats, security forces officers, justice officials and civil society representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean who contributed to advancing the role of women in and their contribution to disarmament.

2. Supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

10. The Regional Centre supported the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty through the development of new tools aimed at assisting States in the region in enhancing and standardizing the regimes related to the import and export of conventional arms, with specific reference to risk assessments and mitigation measures.

11. As part of that project, the Regional Centre developed an Arms Trade Treaty implementation course in Spanish and in English with financial support from

Australia, Germany and Spain. The course aims to assist States in the region in creating standardized national control lists, assessing and responding to the risks of trafficking in and diversion of conventional arms and offering model standardized end-user certificates.

12. The Regional Centre applied the implementation course in one regional and three national courses, which trained 97 officials, including 28 women, from five Central American States.

3. Technical assistance on small arms and ammunition

13. The Regional Centre continued its collaboration with the Judicial Investigation Organization of Costa Rica to provide assistance to States in combating impunity in small arms trafficking cases. That included the development of a course manual dealing with issues of cooperation between actors, from intelligence operators to crime scene administrators and prosecutors, involved in the chain of custody of illicit weapons and ammunition. A three-day course on evidence management and small arms and ammunition seizures was conducted in Costa Rica in March 2015, and 28 officials, including 11 women, from various security and justice institutions of Costa Rica participated.

14. In November 2014, the Regional Centre cooperated with the Institute of Education for Sustainable Development in Guatemala in training 74 prosecutors and police officers, including 22 women, from Guatemala on conducting small arms-related investigations.

4. Promoting peaceful coexistence at the local level

15. As part of a three-year inter agency project by the United Nations country team in Peru, which is aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence in Peru by strengthening human security and community resilience, the Regional Centre assisted in building regional and local capacities to combat illicit trafficking by providing expertise in small arms control measures and strengthening the coordination between national officials. That project, funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, underlines the spirit of the "delivering as one" approach of the United Nations.

16. Under that project, the Regional Centre and the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use of Peru jointly developed a series of four capacity-building and information-sharing workshops on combating illicit small arms trafficking. More than 200 participants from the Entity, the national police, the Ministry of Public Affairs and regional, local and district authorities, including communities and districts with high crime rates, as well as representatives of civil society, including youth, participated and discussed public security policies and best practices for armed violence reduction. Those inputs will contribute to dialogue on possible areas of intervention within the United Nations joint programmes for human security.

17. With the increased privatization of security in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre launched a new project to strengthen capacities for small arms control among the private security sector and to promote good governance in the oversight of that sector in El Salvador and Peru. The project, in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces,

addresses issues such as the linkage between the regulation of private security companies and small arms control measures, capacity-building for stockpile management and security and support for national authorities in assessing the risk of arms transfers to private security end users.

18. The Regional Centre carried out two national and one regional baseline assessments on the private security inventories of small arms and ammunition to serve as the basis for future activities under that project. The Centre hosted a national seminar in June 2015 on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers to familiarize 45 male and 10 female owners and senior managers of private security companies with effective standards on the control and management of small arms and ammunition.

5. Small arms controls and the rule of law

19. Robust legal frameworks are fundamental to supporting efforts to combat illicit trafficking in small arms. They are also important in aligning national legislation on small arms with international and regional instruments.

20. At the request of the Dominican Republic, the Regional Centre assisted the Government in conducting a legal review and provided recommendations on harmonizing the small arms bill of law with international and regional legal instruments, which were discussed at a workshop held by the Centre in April 2015 for 20 national authorities, including members of Congress and senior officials from the Ministries of the Interior, Defence and Foreign Affairs, among others.

21. The Regional Centre also provided legal and technical assistance to Peru, at its request, and collaborated with the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use and the temporary multisectoral commission in drafting a regulatory framework following the adoption of new small arms legislation by Congress in early 2015.

6. Enhancing stockpile management safety and security

22. The Regional Centre's assistance focused on building the capacity of Central and South American States to manage weapons stockpiles. In particular, the Centre contributed to the establishment of a regional training centre in Port of Spain, in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

23. As part of its assistance package designed to prevent armed violence in Central America, the Regional Centre held three national technical workshops on stockpile management in Guatemala (February 2015), the Dominican Republic (April 2015) and Honduras (April 2015). The workshops trained 86 security sector officials, including 14 women, on physical security and stockpile management based on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The courses addressed definitions and classifications of small arms, ammunition and explosives, small arms proliferation and armed violence, risk management and security plans. Practical exercises were held at the conclusion of the workshops.

24. The Regional Centre undertook a multi-year project to strengthen the capacity of 14 Caribbean States to combat small arms trafficking, in particular through improved stockpile management and weapons destruction procedures. The project

led to the destruction of more than 50,000 small arms and light weapons and more than 62 tons of ammunition by States in the region. Caribbean States also benefited from the improved safety and security of 120 stockpile facilities and the training of close to 300 national officials on weapons and ammunition destruction techniques, in accordance with the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Those activities contribute to reducing the likelihood of small arms and ammunition being diverted from State arsenals and, therefore, contribute to improvements in public security throughout the entire region.

25. That project also assisted 14 Caribbean States in reviewing and improving their policy and legal frameworks through support for the creation of national small arms commissions, the review of national legislation with international small arms instruments and specialized legal training for parliamentarians on combating illicit small arms trafficking.

7. Improving ballistics tracing capacities

26. Adequate national operational forensic ballistics systems are complementary to effectively addressing illicit trafficking in weapons and ammunition. The Regional Centre designed a new forensic ballistics technical assistance package through which it will organize training courses, provide ballistic laboratory materials and equipment and assist in the establishment of standard operational procedures and national competency testing frameworks. That project will be implemented in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

27. The Regional Centre held a regional workshop in Lima in June 2015 for representatives of eight Caribbean States to outline the objectives of the project and present the initial 24-month workplans for each of the beneficiary States. The 22 workshop participants and experts were also able to further the regional dialogue on the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network aimed at promoting ballistic information exchange among the Caribbean States and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

B. Supporting the implementation of multilateral instruments related to weapons of mass destruction

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

28. In response to requests by Caribbean States for support in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Regional Centre continued to implement its assistance programme in five Caribbean States: Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The programme offers the technical tools and legal assistance required to effectively implement the resolution, in particular through strategic trade control regimes, legal frameworks, regional control lists and licensing protocols. The Centre contributed to strengthening border controls and risk management mechanisms through the training of security sector personnel on the identification and handling of sensitive goods related to weapons of mass destruction.

Strengthening legislative frameworks

29. The Regional Centre conducted four national round tables, in Trinidad and Tobago (October 2014), Jamaica (December 2014), the Dominican Republic (January 2015) and Belize (February 2015), to discuss the findings and recommendations of the comparative legal studies with regard to resolution 1540 (2004). The studies included a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the existing legal framework in each country vis-à-vis the main international instruments relating to the resolution. The Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 and the CARICOM 1540 coordinator participated in those activities, and priorities were identified for further technical assistance that could serve as the basis for voluntary national action plans.

30. The Regional Centre also supported Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in the development of new legislation and policies related to resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre held a three-day workshop in Jamaica in December 2014, during which it presented the results of its legal analysis and review of three separate draft bills of law relating to weapons of mass destruction issues. The participating 24 national representatives, including 12 women, also benefited from the technical advice of a member of the Expert Group and representatives from the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre.

31. On 29 January 2015, in Trinidad and Tobago, the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Security and proliferation financing experts from the Department of State of the United States of America, provided legal and technical assistance to 19 officials, including 12 women, involved in the implementation of paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004) related to the obligation of States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit, inter alia, attempts to engage in financing terrorist purposes.

32. During the reporting period, Grenada also benefited from technical legal assistance provided by the Regional Centre and the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa on the enactment of comprehensive legislation on non-proliferation and on the drafting and effective implementation of control lists.

Supporting the formulation of national action plans

33. The Regional Centre assisted Grenada in its development of a voluntary national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), with special emphasis on export controls and border security. Grenada presented its plan in March 2015. The Centre also provided policy advice and expert assistance to the Dominican Republic in creating a national inter-agency working group responsible for developing its voluntary national action plan.

Inter-institutional coordination and cooperation

34. The Regional Centre provided capacity-building assistance, in particular on legislative and policy-related issues, to assist States in implementing commitments made under various weapons of mass destruction instruments.

35. In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a two-day technical tabletop exercise was held in Grenada in October 2014 on enhancing risk management in the maritime domain. Discussions revolved around the training needs and institutional challenges and priorities facing the country with respect to

how best to implement effective border control measures to enhance security at ports and identify effective ways to deal with small vessel security. Crisis management training and risk management, along with the development of protocols and contingency plans, were highlighted as priorities by the participating government officials.

36. In another collaborative effort, the Regional Centre worked with the International Criminal Police Organization and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to train security sector personnel in Trinidad and Tobago on the detection and handling of sensitive dual-use chemical materials and improvised explosives at a three-day national workshop held in Port of Spain in March 2015. Training was provided to more than 30 participants from the police force, defence force, customs and excise, the port authority, special forces and the fire department on the identification and handling of some of the main chemicals and potentially explosive material available.

Promoting regional dialogue

37. The Regional Centre hosted a regional seminar in Lima in March 2015 to promote the exchange of information and best practices in the priority areas of the adoption of control lists, existing legal frameworks and potential challenges in the region. More than 30 representatives, including 18 women, from five Caribbean States participated. Members of the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), representatives from CARICOM, IMO, the Department of State of the United States, the Organization of American States (OAS), the University of Georgia, the Stimson Centre and the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre, among others, as well as representatives from neighbouring countries, also attended.

38. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre held a regional workshop in Peru in November 2014 on establishing appropriate controls over related materials in the areas of accounting for or securing, and physical protection related to, nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The workshop brought together 48 representatives from States, regional and international organizations, the donor community and United Nations agencies.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

39. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programme activities. In 2014, voluntary contributions to the Centre's Trust Fund were received in the amount of $331,225.[1] The Centre also benefited from funds made available through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security ($83,901.91), with the support of the regional government of La Libertad in Peru. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Centre's donors for their continued financial

[1] Australia ($102,265), Germany ($191,931.05), Guyana ($1,031.48), Mexico ($5,000), Panama ($1,000) and Peru ($29,998.76).

support, in particular the Governments of Australia and Germany. Those contributions enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, upon request.

40. The Secretary-General also wishes to express his appreciation to the States of the region, including Guyana, Mexico, Panama and Peru, for their financial contributions to the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General is also grateful for the financial contributions received from the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and the regional government of La Libertad. The Secretary-General continues to encourage direct financial contributions to the Centre from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

41. The Regional Centre also benefited from close cooperation and joint undertakings with its partners, such as CARICOM, the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Small Arms Survey, OAS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the United States and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. Those partners provided the Centre with in-kind or financial contributions, as well as contributions through cost-sharing agreements, which greatly assisted in the implementation of activities.

42. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous financial contributions to the Regional Centre and encourages their continuous support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, upon request, in fulfilling its mandate. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre for 2014 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

43. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre recruited eight experts to implement its public security programme, including the ballistics, private security and Arms Trade Treaty projects, all of which are aimed at bolstering the implementation of the various international instruments and enhancing public security in the region.

44. The Regional Centre also added two staff to its non-proliferation programme to expand its technical assistance to Member States to support the implementation of instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

45. The Regional Centre also recruited three new staff members through extrabudgetary resources to provide administrative and logistical support for the implementation of the project.

46. The Regional Centre continued to implement its 2013-2015 strategic plan. The plan encompasses the strengthening and sustaining of its public security programme and activities, as well as the expansion of its disarmament assistance in support of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Centre has also begun to prepare its 2016-2018 strategic plan, building on its current activities and projects.

V. Conclusion

47. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook and/or took part in more than 50 substantive activities in the fields of conventional arms control, public security and non-proliferation, benefiting more than 800 national representatives. Twenty new requests were received from Member States in the region and partners for assistance in and the delivery of practical disarmament activities, as well as support for measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

48. The Regional Centre promoted the participation and role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by providing increased access to specialized training for female security sector officials and policy decision makers, as well as showcasing their contribution through women's publications.

49. The Regional Centre was requested to expand its technical assistance to Member States to new areas, ranging from small arms and ammunition tracing and evidence management to import/export controls, with a view to promoting effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as regional and international small arms instruments. In addition, the Centre continued to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) through its ongoing support for Caribbean States in the strengthening of their legal frameworks.

50. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to those Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, to ensure that it can continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experiences in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2014	**2 073 782**
Income	
Voluntary contributions	331 225[a]
Funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	0
Interest income	9 256
Total income	**1 280 643**
Expenditures	1 216 688
Programme support costs	158 169
Refunds to donors	2 136[b]
Total expenditure and refunds	**1 376 993**
Reserves and fund balances, 31 December 2014	**2 191 478**[c]

[a] During the reporting period, contributions totalling $331,225 were received from Australia ($102,265), Germany ($191,931), Guyana ($1,031), Mexico ($5,000), Panama ($1,000) and Peru ($29,998).

[b] Represents refunds to the Government of Germany.

[c] Consists of reserves and fund balance as at 1 January 2014, plus income received in 2014, less expenditure incurred and refunds made during the year.